

**Mrs. Abbey Meyers,
President, National Organization for Rare Disorders,
New Fairfield, CT**

Mrs. Meyers is a founder and President of the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), a coalition of national voluntary health agencies and a clearinghouse for information about these little known illnesses. Mrs. Meyers served as the consumer representative on the National Commission on Orphan Diseases (1986-89), the NIH Human Gene Therapy Subcommittee (1989-92), the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) (1993-96), and the FDA Biological Response Modifiers Committee (1995-99). Mrs. Meyers continues to serve on the FDA's Xenotransplantation Subcommittee, and as an ad hoc consumer advocate for the FDA and NIH. She is the recipient of the FDA Commissioner's Special Citation for Exception Dedication and Achievements (1988), and the Department of Health and Human Services Award for Public Health Service for Exceptional Achievements in Orphan Drug Development (1985). Mrs. Meyers holds an Honorary Doctorate from Alfred University in New York. She is considered the primary consumer advocate responsible for passage of the *Orphan Drug Act* of 1983.